

AQUATIC INVASIVE SPECIES PROGRAM UTAH DIVISION OF WILDLIFE RESOURCES

SOUTHEASTERN REGION SUMMARY

(January 1 thru December 31, 2012)

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General

The new Utah Division of State Parks and Recreation (SP&R) contract for aquatic invasive species (AIS) management has proven to be a success. Implementation shows that the number of boats interdicted (inspections, boater AIS education and boat decontamination when needed) has increased. Also, compliance with the required Decontamination Certification Form has increased, too. SP&R has a distinct visibility advantage at the state parks, since personnel are present during all hours of operation, making pre-launch AIS contacts. The public is acutely aware of the State of Utah's AIS program, and they expect to be contacted by Department of Natural Resources employees, regardless of whether or not the representative is with Utah Division of Wildlife Resources (UDWR) or SP&R.

Region-wide Operations

One Biologist I position was funded for 12 months by UDWR (\$73,926) to manage the regional AIS Program and to supervise the Wildlife Technician II position and some of the Wildlife Technician I positions. Additionally, the Biologist coordinated multiple state parks in their implementation of the Utah Aquatic Invasive Species Management Plan (Plan).

One Wildlife Technician II position was funded for 6 months by UDWR (\$24,382) to supervise some of the Wildlife Technician I positions and to rove between regional waters as needed.

Multiple Wildlife Technician I positions and Lead Ranger Aides performed AIS duties at individual water bodies or state parks during the highest boating periods.

In summary the following was accomplished by AIS staff in the region performing for UDWR, SP&R or their partners:

- 2,229 boats were interdicted pre-launch and inspected.
- 4,993 folks (estimated) while boating, which includes the boat operator and those who accompanied them, were educated about:
 - (1) Risks from quagga and zebra mussels; and
 - (2) How to self-decontaminate the boat.

Note: The estimated numbers of people educated are based upon boater contacts made in the Southern Region (20,876) and Northeastern Region (15,748), which documented the number of folks who accompanied a boat (57,560 in the Southern Region and 26,944 in Northeastern Region) and who were also educated about AIS

risks and boat decontamination protocols, particularly the Clean, Drain & Dry method. So, this data shows 1.71 (Northeastern Region) to 2.76 folks per boat (Southern Region) via actual count were educated. Thus, on average 2.24 folks per boat (N = 84,504) are anticipated to be educated during a boater contact.

- 245 boats were professionally decontaminated due to their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body.
 - One boat from Texas was discovered to be encrusted with live false dark mussels. It was quarantined and decontaminated twice before release to the commercial hauler.
- Public presentations at International Sportsman Expo, 2012 River Rendezvous, and Western Regional Panel annual meeting.
- 254 hours (0.122 FTE) were worked by volunteers under authority of UDWR's Volunteer Program, targeting watercraft interdiction, inspection for AIS, and education about quagga & zebra mussel issues.
- Plankton samples were taken at Scofield Reservoir, Huntington North Reservoir, Cleveland Reservoir, Mammoth Reservoir, Electric Lake, Joe's Valley Reservoir, Millsite Reservoir, Hunter Power Plant's Snow Lake, Huntington Power Plant's raw water pond, and Recapture Reservoir. All samples showed no evidence of veligers (microscopic larvae) for quagga or zebra mussels.
- Watercraft Inspection and Decontamination Training (WIT) as either level I or level II occurred for all DWR Technician I & II positions and all SP&R employees involved with AIS boat inspections at state parks within the region. The training was also provided to other natural resource management agencies; and select personnel from PacifiCorp, canal companies and marinas.
- AIS Biologist conducted AIS presence/absence inspections at State Fish Hatcheries and at origination and destination sites for wild fish transfers to minimize inadvertent spread of AIS through routine wildlife management practices.
- Law Enforcement personnel from UDWR, SP&R or their partners made thousands of contacts to enforce Rule R657-60. These contacts are not included in the region or statewide totals, but stand alone. Most of the contacts were outreach oriented, although many involved issuance of a non-compliance notice, and a few written "warning" or "notice to appear in court" citations were issued. Compliance rates are considered to be good and improving.
 - Two Administrative Checkpoints were conducted in May and June; both at Thompson Springs along I-70, interdicting a total of 137 boats of which 11 required decontamination. None were encrusted with quagga, zebra or false dark mussels.

Southeastern Region Water-By-Water Reports (listed in alphabetical order)

Cleveland/Mammoth reservoir complex (Cleveland and Mammoth reservoirs), Electric Lake, Huntington North Reservoir, Joe's Valley Reservoir, Millsite Reservoir, Recapture Reservoir complex (Recapture Reservoir, Ken's Lake and Blanding #4), and Scofield Reservoir

Cleveland & Mammoth Reservoirs Complex

- Both UDWR's General Fund and the AIS contracts with PacifiCorp and the U.S. Forest Service for Electric Lake jointly fund this activity.
 - UDWR implemented the Plan as follows:
 - The region's AIS biologist and the Wildlife Technician II occasionally visited both reservoirs from June thru October to make AIS boater contacts. Additionally, the Electric Lake AIS Technician I routinely made AIS contacts during the same period. And campers in the Huntington Canyon area and other nearby water recreation areas (Miller's Flat Reservoir and Gooseberry Reservoir) were contacted about AIS, especially folks with float tubes, canoes or pontoon boats.
- Boat decontamination needs, if needed, would have been provided by the decontamination unit assigned at Electric Lake.
- 79 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- No boats needed professional decontamination due to a lack of their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body.
 - No boats were encrusted with invasive mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 79 interviews)
 - Top 4 Last Waters Visited
 1. Mammoth = 23 or 29%
 2. Electric = 7
 3. Cleveland = 6
 4. Huntington North = 4

Note: Boaters that use the Mammoth and Cleveland reservoir complex typically frequent there or nearby local waters.
- Plankton samples collected on July 9th and August 14th for presence/absence of *Dreissena veligers* were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

Electric Lake

- The budget was \$35,451 and AIS personnel performed for 14 months or 1.167 FTE as follows:
 - UDWR implemented the Plan as follows (**note:** significant volunteer assistance was used, too):
 - 1 UDWR funded Technician I position @ \$7,333; 3 months (June thru August).
 - 2 USFS funded Technician I positions @ \$17,291; 6 months (3 each—June thru August).

- 1 PacifiCorp funded Technician I position @ \$10,827; 3 months (June thru August).

Note: This funding allowed Electric Lake to experience coverage during all 7 days of the week for 12-14 hours per day. Inclusion of assistance from the AIS Biologist and the Wildlife Technician II, primarily during September and October, coverage spanned a 5-month period of June thru October.

- One \$26,511 trailer-mounted decontamination unit with a refuse water recovery system that was purchased by UDWR with NRCS funds in an earlier fiscal year was stationed at the lake.
- 419 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS. This number is down dramatically from last season, which is likely attributed to the Seeley Mountain fire that caused several road closures blocking access to Electric Lake. Boater use in all of the month of July was lost due to closures.
- No arriving boats needed to be decontaminated. However, 235 boats were professionally decontaminated upon departure, since Electric Lake is managed under authority of a control plan due to an earlier detection of zebra mussel larvae in 2008. No evidence of *Dreissena* mussels has been observed since, and Electric Lake was down listed from “detected” to “inconclusive” at the end of 2011. It will remain as “inconclusive” through 2013, unless another detection of *Dreissena* mussels is made. If no further detections are made, Electric Lake will be further down listed to “not detected” at the end of 2013.

Note: All boats were decontaminated upon departure from Red Fleet, unless their next launch was to be at Red Fleet.

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- No boats were encrusted with invasive mussels.

- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 419 interviews)

Top 5 Last Waters Visited

1. Electric Lake = 198 or 47%
2. None = 44
3. Scofield = 33
4. Mammoth = 17
5. Fish Lake = 8

Note: 47% of Electric Lake boaters seem to frequently use Electric Lake.

- Plankton samples collected on July 9th and August 22th for presence/absence of *Dreissena* veligers were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation’s microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative. Additionally, qPCR assessment of all samples for *Dreissena* eDNA at Pisces Molecular’s lab in Boulder, CO showed negative, too.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No “Notice to Appear” in court citations was issued.

Huntington North Reservoir

- The budget was \$6,810 and AIS personnel performed for 4 months (mid May thru mid September) or 0.33 FTE as follows:
 - SP&R was contracted using UDWR's General Fund to implement the Plan.
Note: significant volunteer assistance from UDWR's Volunteer Program was used, too.
- One \$65,913 semi-permanent decontamination unit with culinary water supply and water capture/septic system that was purchased by UDWR with NRCS funds in an earlier fiscal year is stationed at the state park.
- The Emery Water Conservation District posted Aquatic Invasive Species outreach messages and reminders on their web page, which is used widely by recreationists looking up water levels and flows.
- 678 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- 2 boats were professionally decontaminated due to their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body as follows: 1 boat from Lake Havasu and 1 boat from Lake Mead.
 - No boats were encrusted with invasive mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 678 interviews)

Top 5 Last Waters Visited

1. Huntington North = 198 or 29%
2. Lake Powell = 57
3. Joe's Valley = 45
4. Scofield = 21
5. Millsite = 15

Note: 29% of Huntington North's boaters seem to frequently use Huntington North. 8% also show a strong affinity for use at Lake Powell.

- Plankton samples collected in June and August for presence/absence of *Dreissena veligers* were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

Joe's Valley Reservoir

- The budget was \$9,422 and AIS personnel performed for 3.11 months or 0.259 FTE as follows:
 - Contracted SP&R to implement the Plan as follows:
 - 1 Emery WCD funded Technician I positions @ \$5,362—3.11 months (Memorial Day thru Labor Day).
 - UDWR funded Motor Pool costs from Millsite State Park to Joe's Valley Reservoir to operate a vehicle for daily boater AIS contacts @ \$4,060.

- One \$26,511 trailer-mounted decontamination unit with a refuse water recovery system that was purchased by UDWR with NRCS funds in an earlier fiscal year was stationed at the reservoir.
- The Emery Water Conservation District posted Aquatic Invasive Species outreach messages and reminders on their web page, which is used widely by recreationists looking up water levels and flows.
- 484 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- No boats needed professional decontamination due to a lack of their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body.
 - No boats were encrusted with invasive mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 484 interviews)
 - Top 5 Last Waters Visited
 1. Joe's Valley = 222 or 42%
 2. Huntington North = 50
 3. Millsite = 25
 4. Lake Powell = 25
 5. Scofield = 22

Note: 46% of Joe's Valley boaters seem to frequently use Joe's Valley.
- Plankton samples collected on June 26th for presence/absence of *Dreissena* veligers were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

Millsite Reservoir

- The budget was \$5,362 and AIS personnel performed for 3.11 months or 0.259 FTE as follows:
 - Contracted SP&R to implement the Plan as follows:
 - 1 Emery WCD funded Technician I position @ \$5,362—3.11 months (Memorial Day thru Labor Day).
- One \$13,400 trailer-mounted decontamination unit purchased by UDWR with General Fund in an earlier fiscal year is stationed at the state park.
- The Emery Water Conservation District posted Aquatic Invasive Species outreach messages and reminders on their web page, which is used widely by recreationists looking up water levels and flows.
- 75 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- No boats needed professional decontamination due to a lack of their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body.
 - No boats were encrusted with invasive mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 75 interviews)
 - Top 5 Last Waters Visited

1. Millsite = 39 or 52%
2. Huntington North = 10
3. Lake Powell = 8
4. Joe's Valley = 4
5. Jordanelle = 2

Note: 52% of Millsite boaters seem to frequently use Millsite.

- Plankton samples collected during July for presence/absence of *Dreissena* veligers were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

Recapture Reservoir complex (Recapture Reservoir, Ken's Lake and Blanding #4)

- The budget was \$10,541 and AIS personnel performed for 4 months or 0.33 FTE as follows:
 - UDWR implemented the Plan as follows:
 - 1 UDWR funded Technician I position @ \$10,541; 4 months (mid May thru mid September).

Note: San Juan County seems to offer a challenge, since no folks could be recruited for this position in 2012. Thus, random checks by UDWR Conservation Officers, the AIS Biologist and the Assistant Aquatic Manager were the base of AIS operations. A more significant effort to recruit an AIS Technician will occur for the 2013 boating season.

- A compliance use rate for the Decontamination Certification Form by boaters was considered to be good.

Scofield Reservoir

- The budget was \$6,810 and AIS personnel performed for 4 months (mid May thru mid September). or 0.33 FTE as follows:
 - SP&R was contracted using UDWR's General Fund to implement the Plan.

Note: significant volunteer assistance from UDWR's Volunteer Program was used, too.
- Two \$13,400 trailer-mounted decontamination units purchased by UDWR with General Fund in earlier fiscal years are stationed at the state park—one at the Madison Unit and the other at the Mountain View Unit.
- 374 boats were interdicted, inspected as needed, and educated about AIS.
- No boats needed professional decontamination due to a lack of their stated use within the prior 30 days on a quagga, zebra or false dark mussel affected water body.
 - No boats were encrusted with invasive mussels.
- Boater History of Last Water Visited (N = 369 interviews)

Top 5 Last Waters Visited

1. Scofield = 170 or 46%
2. Strawberry = 38
3. Utah Lake = 26
4. Deer Creek = 23
5. Lake Powell = 16

Note: 46% of Scofield boaters seem to frequently use Scofield.

- Plankton samples collected in July and August for presence/absence of *Dreissena* veligers were sent to the Bureau of Reclamation's microscopy lab in Denver, CO; all were found to be negative.
- Regional Conservation Officers and State Park Rangers assisted with the interdiction, inspection and education of boaters during their routine boater/angler checks. Written warnings citations were given to boaters that were non-compliant with the self-certification process. No "Notice to Appear" in court citations was issued.

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